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This Week in Congress

November 1, 2010

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." This week's headlines are:

- [Remembering U.S. Army Specialist Tom Moffitt](#)
- [Saint Francis Community Coming Together](#)
- [Hospitals Are Integral to Kansas Communities](#)
- [NCAT Will Better Equip Wichita Aviation Workforce](#)
- [Commending East Wichita Rotarians for Good Work in Community](#)
- [FDIC Chair Sheila Bair Visits Independence](#)
- [Community Efforts Improve Education](#)
- [Attending Kansas State University's Homecoming Football Game](#)
- [In the Office](#)

Remembering U.S. Army Specialist Tom Moffitt

It was a sad honor to attend services at Central Community Church in Wichita on Saturday to celebrate the life of U.S. Army Specialist Tom Moffitt. While on duty in Afghanistan, Tom's unit was attacked by insurgents. On October 24, Tom gave his life in service to our country and will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in the near future. Tom was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He had previously served our country in South Korea before beginning his tour of duty in Afghanistan this summer. After his service, Tom planned to farm and ranch in the Flint Hills where he could continue his love of hunting and fishing and attend KSU. Tom is survived by his parents John and Brenda, and his brother Jake.

The death of this 21 year old Kansan reminds me of my responsibility to serve our country in a way that honors those who serve our nation, and to acknowledge their sacrifices for freedom here and around the world.

Robba and I extend our gratitude and sympathies to Tom's parents for raising a fine son and for their family's sacrifice. The loss of Tom, and the loss of all brave service members in the line of duty, is a somber reminder of the cost of our freedom. All Americans are indebted to Tom and the many other members of our armed forces for their brave service. Thank you to the hundreds of members of the Patriot Guard who surrounded the church as an honor guard during the service. On behalf of all Americans, I pay tribute to the life of Tom Moffitt.

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Saint Francis Community Coming Together

On October 19th, a fire broke out at the Good Samaritan Village in Saint Francis. Thanks to the good work of staff, firefighters and community members, all 48 residents of this assisted living facility were safely re-located. On Monday, I visited Saint Francis to view the damage from the fire and thank the members of the community for their team work and quick response to the emergency. Their efforts are a great example of how Kansas communities come together to care for one another.

During my visit, I met with Jeff Paulson, Administrator of the Good Samaritan Village and members of the staff including Darla Walz, Paula Austin, Cathy Loop, and Bonnie Straub. I also met with George Harper, Saint Francis Fire Chief; Shane Guggenmos, Saint Francis Chief of Police; Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital Administrator; Ryan Murray, Emergency Preparedness Manager; Jannelle Bowers, Emergency Medical Service Director, Scott Carmichael, USD 297 Principal; Karen Krien, Saint Francis Herald Editor and Ward Cassidy with the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center. Thanks to the community members for

their hospitality during my visit. [Click here](#) to view a photo from my visit.



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Hospitals Are Integral to Kansas Communities

This week, I had the opportunity to tour several hospitals in South Central and Southeastern Kansas to learn how they care for patients in their communities. As Chairman of the House Rural Health Care Coalition, I work to make sure that Congress considers and addresses the unique health care needs of rural America. During these visits, I toured the facilities and spoke with administrators, physicians, nurses and staff about how the new health care reform law will be implemented and how the law will affect them. Visiting hospitals across our state helps me better understand the needs of Kansans.

Anthony Medical Center: I was in Anthony on Thursday to visit Anthony Medical Center (AMC), a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital providing short term acute care to patients in Anthony and South Central Kansas. AMC is a member of the Wheat Plains Health Network, which partners with eight other Critical Access Hospitals. Thanks to Tami Greve, Director of Marketing, for her hospitality during my visit. [Click here](#) to view a photo from my visit.



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